TRIBAL ART SOCIETY

Monday
April 1st
2024

ONLINE CATALOGUE LXXXVII

APRIL ISSUE

WHO WE ARE

The Tribal Art Society features an online catalogue every month listing quality works of Asian art that have been thoroughly vetted by our select members, who are the in-house experts.

By bringing together a group of trusted dealers specializing in Tribal art, our platform offers a unique collection of works of art that collectors will not find anywhere else online. To ensure the highest standards, gallery membership is by invitation only and determined by a selection committee.

/TribalArtSociety

Cover Image: Necklace presented by Anthony J.P. Meyer on p. 46

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MEDIA PARTNER

PARIS TRIBAL

Expect the unexpected at Paris Tribal!

This year, each of our 41 participants has selected an unexpected work of art that will be highlighted with dedicated signage during Paris Tribal week.

Get ready to discover unexpected artworks in terms of geographic origin, typology, material, iconography, provenance, or even connection with other specialties such as modern art, design, or contemporary art.

From April 23 to 28, 2024, Paris Tribal invites you to stroll from gallery to gallery in the streets of the Saint-Germain-des-Prés / Beaux-Arts district (Paris 6th) to discover the unexpected works of art selected by each dealer.

"To expect the unexpected shows a thoroughly modern intellect."
Oscar Wilde, An Ideal Husband

Plongez dans l'INATTENDU avec Paris Tribal cette année !

Cette année, chacun de nos 41 participants a sélectionné une œuvre inattendue qui sera mise en avant grâce à une signalétique dédiée durant la semaine de Paris Tribal.

Préparez-vous à découvrir des œuvres inattendues en termes d'origine géographique, de typologie, de matériau, d'iconographie, de provenance, ou encore de lien avec d'autres spécialités telles que l'art moderne, le design ou l'art contemporain.

Du 23 au 28 avril 2024, Paris Tribal vous invite à déambuler de galerie en galerie dans les rues du quartier de Saint-Germain-des-Prés / Beaux-Arts (Paris 6e) à la rencontre des œuvres inattendues sélectionnées par chaque marchand.

"S'attendre à l'inattendu est la marque d'un esprit moderne"
Oscar Wilde, Un mari idéal

PARIS TRIBAL

UN

EXPEC

TED

23.04.24 – 28.04.24

APRIL ARTWORKS

Pieces are published and changed each month. The objects are presented with a full description and corresponding dealer's contact information. Unlike auction sites or other platforms, we empower collectors to interact directly with the member dealers for enquiries and purchases by clicking on the e-mail adress.

In order to guarantee the quality of pieces available in the catalogues, objects are systematically validated by all our select mebers, who are the in-house experts. Collectors are therefore encouraged to decide and buy with complete confidence. In addition to this, the Tribal Art Society proposes a seven-day full money back return policy should the buyer not feel totally satisfied with a purchase.

Feel free to ask the price if the artwork is listed with a price on request.

01

A CEREMONIAL SWORD HANDLE

Sword handle
Yoruba
Nigeria
17th/19th century
Bronze with a fine patina of age, lost-wax casting process
7,7 cm (h) x 4 cm (w) x 4,5 cm (d)
Provenance:
Michel Köenig, Brussels
Price on request

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
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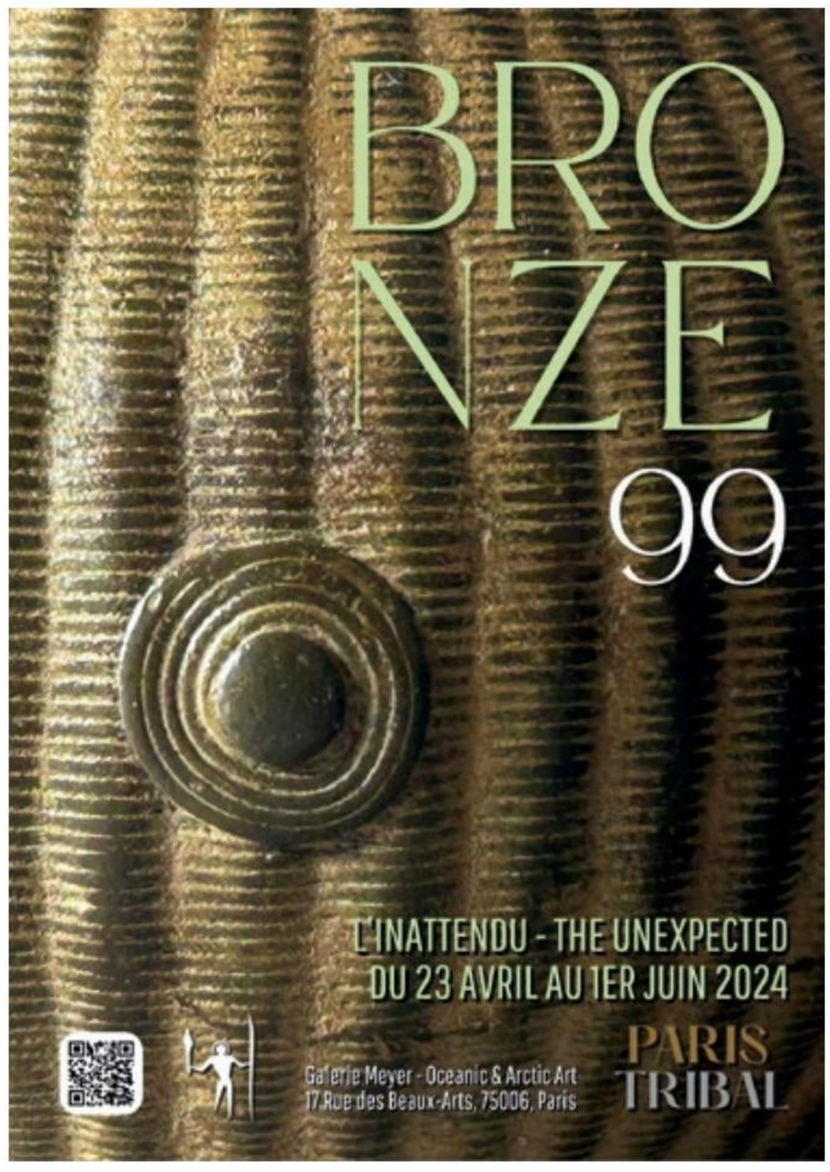
PARIS TRIBAL

Galerie Meyer is delighted to present its exhibition ""Bronze 99"", which will take place from April 23rd to June 1st, 2024, at Galerie Meyer, located at 17 Rue des Beaux-Arts, 75006 Paris. This exhibition is part of the Paris Tribal art fair, which this year explores the theme of the unexpected.
Taking a step to the side, Anthony JP Meyer unveils his collection of 99 African bronze miniatures. Produced using the lost-wax casting process, these ancient pieces from the 17th to 19th centuries immerse us in the cultural beliefs of Africa with statues depicting anthropomorphic and zoomorphic figures, including deities, musicians, couples, crocodiles, birds, as well as tools and jewelry.
This exhibition offers a wonderful opportunity to discover the art and spirituality of these remarkable bronze miniatures. Each piece tells a story, evoking the customs, beliefs, and traditions of the rich and fascinating cultures of the African continent.
We invite you to dive into the captivating world of ""Bronze 99"" and discover the beauty and depth of African bronzes.



02

A LARGE ULA DRISA WITH *TAVATAVA* CARVING TO THE GRIP

Club
Fiji
19th century
Lustrous dark patina
Length: 42 cm
Diameter: 11 cm
Price: 1.000 euros

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These were used as throwing clubs and hand weapons.

03

A SILVER MOUNTED EBONY WALKING CANE WITH A LAONGO IVORY HANDLE

Cane
Laongo
Congo
19th century, dated Glasgow 1st Nov 1866
Silver mount engraved
Length: 95 cm
Price on request

The plain ebony cane with hand rest in hippopotamus ivory, carved with nude and simply dress figures, and silver mounts, the top mount engraved with the text ""Presented to Andw Dunlop by Dr. T.D. Allison, M.D.M.R.C.S. Eng R.M., Glasgow 1st Nov 1866.""

T.D.Allison was an assistant doctor serving in the Royal Navy. In 1864 he served on board the HMS Jaseur, a ship that was involved in the anti-slavery campaign of the "West Africa Squadron". The famous explorer Richard Francis Burton in a letter mentions T.D.Allison as doctor on board the Jaseur. In his book Mission to Gelele, Burton writes that he boarded HMS Jaseur for a trip to the Oil Rivers in Nigeria. Andrew Dunlop was a surgeon in Glasgow and possibly T.D.Allison's superior. Probably Dr. Allison bought only the carved tooth in Africa and had it made into a walking stick with the engraved silver band in Glasgow where he presented it to Andrew Dunlop.

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PRESENTED
To
Andw. Dunlop
By
Dr. T. D. ALLISON
M.D. M.R.C.S. Eng. R.M.
Nov.r 1866.

04

ABORIGINAL SHIELD

Wunda shield
Western Australia
19th century
Carved wood and pigments
Height: 68 cm
Provenance:
Clive Loveless, UK
Private collection, UK
TAS Exclusive price: 5.500 euros

This type of shield was used for warfare as parrying shields against spears or boomerangs blows. These shields are called « wunda », a name deriving from the Paljgu word « wunrnda », the name of the wood in which the shields were originally carved.

Shields also played a role in initiations and various rituals. Wunda shields were actively traded throughout Western and Central Australia.

The front side of this shield is decorated with red and white linear motifs known as « pandal ». The back side with the handle features deeply carved horizontal incisions (superb patina around the handle).

The colored motifs on the surface of the shield were totemic symbols related to the « songlines ». In his 1987 book *The Songlines,* British novelist and travel writer, Bruce Chatwin describes the songlines as:
""...the labyrinth of invisible pathways which meander all over Australia and are known to Europeans as 'Dreaming-tracks' or 'Songlines'; to the Aboriginals as the 'Footprints of the Ancestors' or the 'Way of the Law'. Aboriginal Creation myths tell of the legendary totemic being who wandered over the continent in the Dreamtime, singing out the name of everything that crossed their path - birds, animals, plants, rocks, waterholes - and so singing the world into existence."
This Aboriginal shield will be part of our Oceanic art selection at Paris Tribal, April 23-28.

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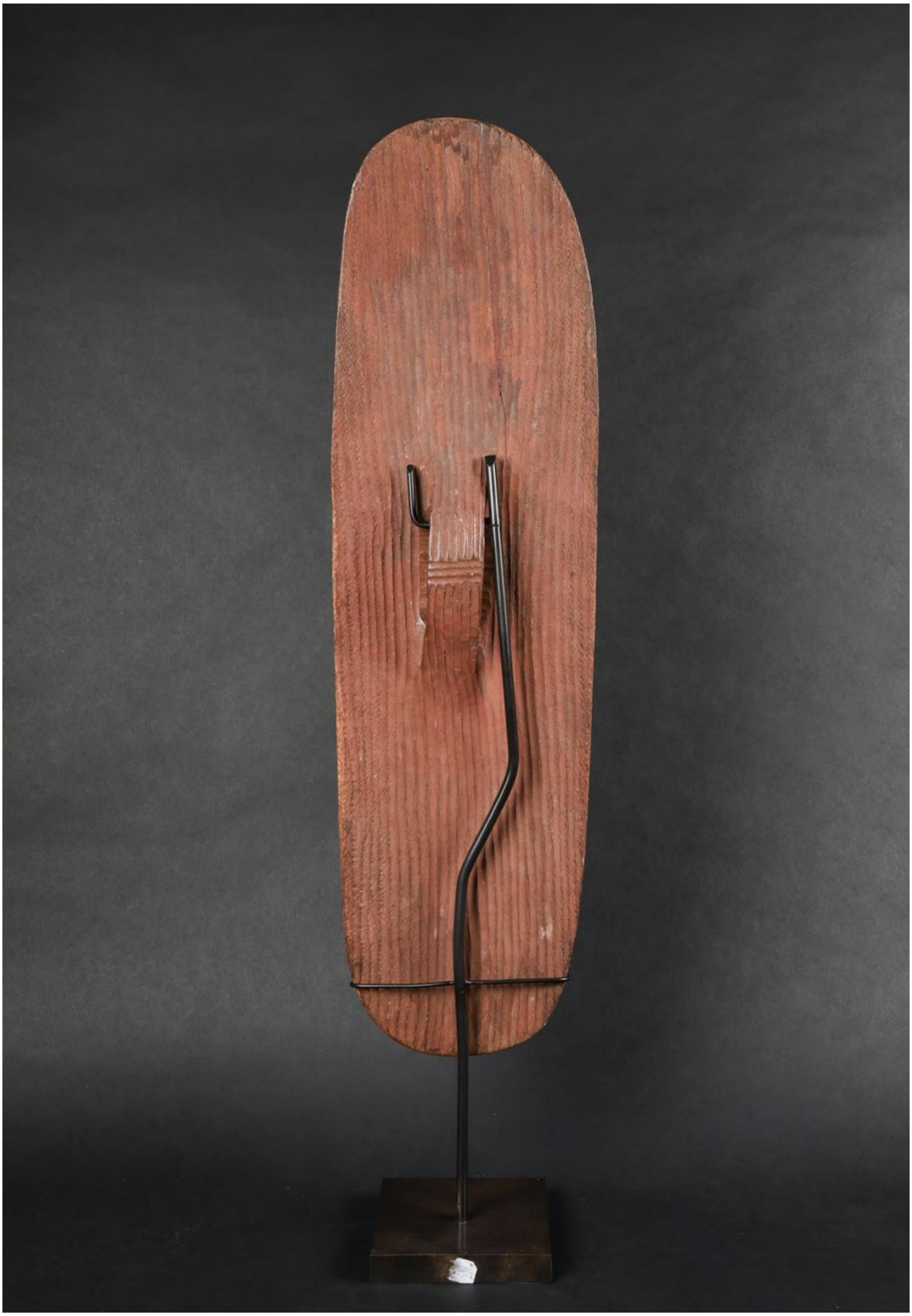
PARIS TRIBAL



05

ABRON/KULANGO FIGURE

Figure
Abron/Kulango
Ivory Coast
Early 20th century
Wood
Height: 29 cm
Provenance:
Aquired in 1965 Nassian area (Ivory Coast)
G.F. Scanzi (1936-2017) , Italy
Publications
Scanzi, G.F. *La statuaire akan*. Ed. Tribalglobale Primary Art. Italie 2010, p. 76, 77, 361, nº 32.
Price: 7.500 euros

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PARIS TRIBAL

06

ADOUBA MASK

Mask
Adouba
Gabon
Wood, pigments
Height: 30cm, Length: 17cm
Provenance:
Former colonial collection, France
Max Itzikovitz collection, Paris
Price on request

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07

ASIE USU SCULPTURE

Sculpture
Baule
Ivory Coast
Late 19th century – early 20th century
Wood
Height: 42 cm
Provenance:
Private Collection, Switzerland
Price on request

Similar sculpture:
L'art africain. Mazenod, France, 1988, nº 380 / Trésors de la Côte d'Ivoire, Fonds Mercator, Belgique, 2014, nº 181.

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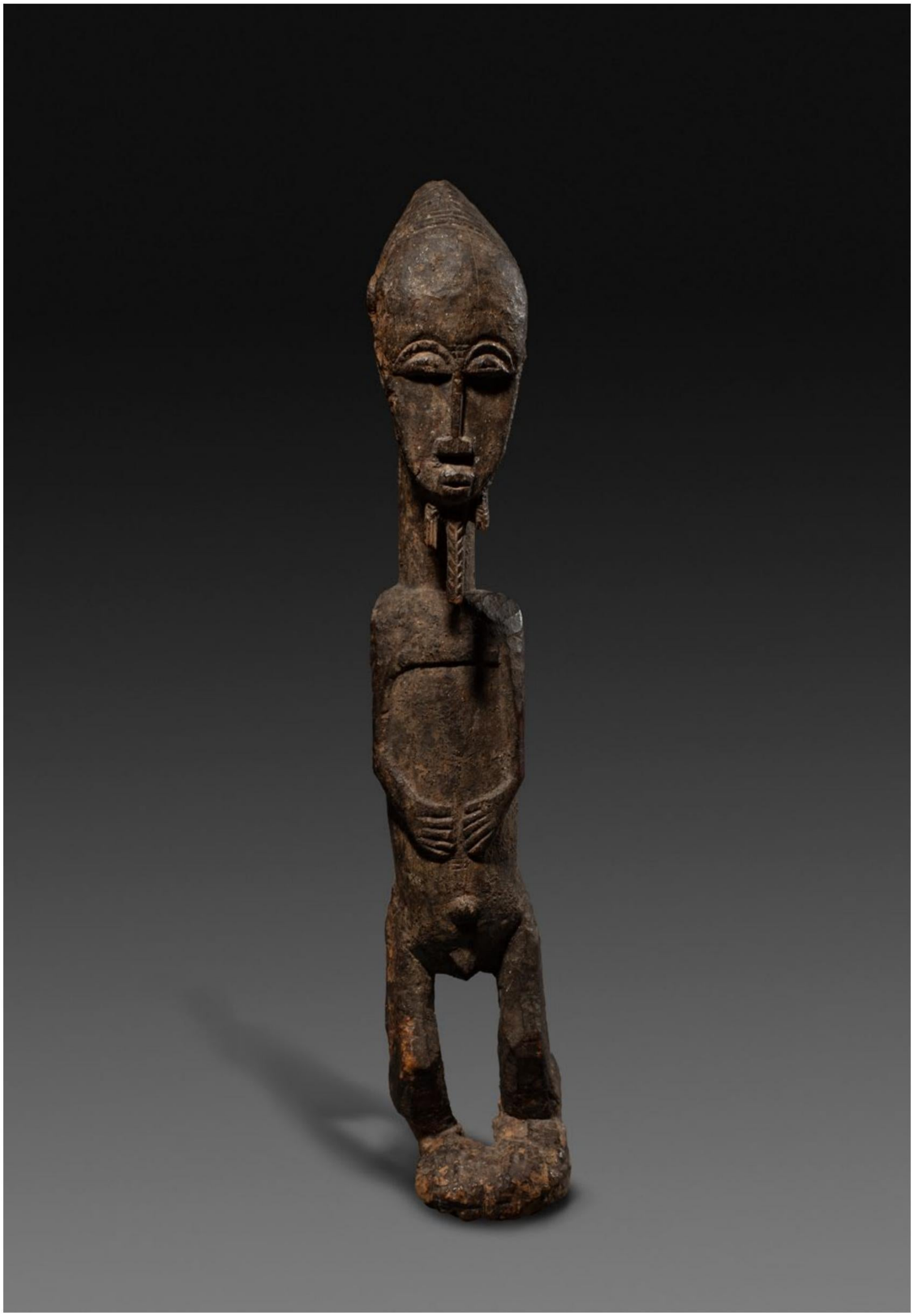

08

BAULE STATUE

Statue
Baule
Ivory Coast
Late 19th century
Wood
Height: 49 cm
Provenance:
Private collection, Netherlands
Galerie Ratton - Hourde, Paris
Rachel Montagut, Barcelona
Private collection, Madrid
Price

SOLD

The Baule represent one of the most important ethnic groups in Ivory Coast. Because of their sense of stylization and attention to detail, they have produced creations that are among the most elegant African objects. Ancient female figure in standing position, made in a realistic style, elegant and very slender. Neck and body with tribal scarifications, drooping arms and long hands attached to the body. Short, sturdy legs and feet that merge into a rounded basin.

The firmness of her face is accentuated by the subtly rendered headdress. The artist has closely followed the artistic canons of the Baule family.

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09

BEMBE FIGURE

Ancestor figure
Bassikassingo Group, Bembe
Republic of Congo
20th century
Wood, with brown patina
Height: 38 cm
Provenance:
French private collection
Price: 2.500 euros

Statuette representing a male ancestor, both hands placed on his stomach. The face is triangular, the eyes are bulging and the headdress resembles a cap.

This hairstyle represents a headdress worn by the highest ranking members of *Bwami* society.

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10

BLOLO BLA ANCESTOR

Figure
Baule
Ivory Coast
First quarter of the 20th century
Old wood with patina of use
Height: 30 cm
Price: 1.900 euros

Female character represented standing. The calves are curved, the arms alongside the body. The feet are missing. The hands are placed on either side of the navel. The neck is cylindrical and ringed, the face serene. The rounded forehead is extended by a bun hairstyle.

Among the Baoulé, most men have a wife in the afterlife, called *blolo bla*. The fetish manifests itself in everyday material life, it is kept in the person's house and receives offerings, handled regularly, it acquires a shiny patina.

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11

MIDI (OR MIDDI)

Necklace
Tolai
Gazelle Peninsula, New Britain,
Bismarck Archipelago, PNG, Melanesia
19/20th century
Nassa shells (rock snail - nassarius arcularis jonasii), rattan, bush string, vegetable fiber, and trade-cloth with a fine patina of age and use
35 cm x 32 cm x 2 cm
Provenance:
Private collection, the Netherlands
Price on request

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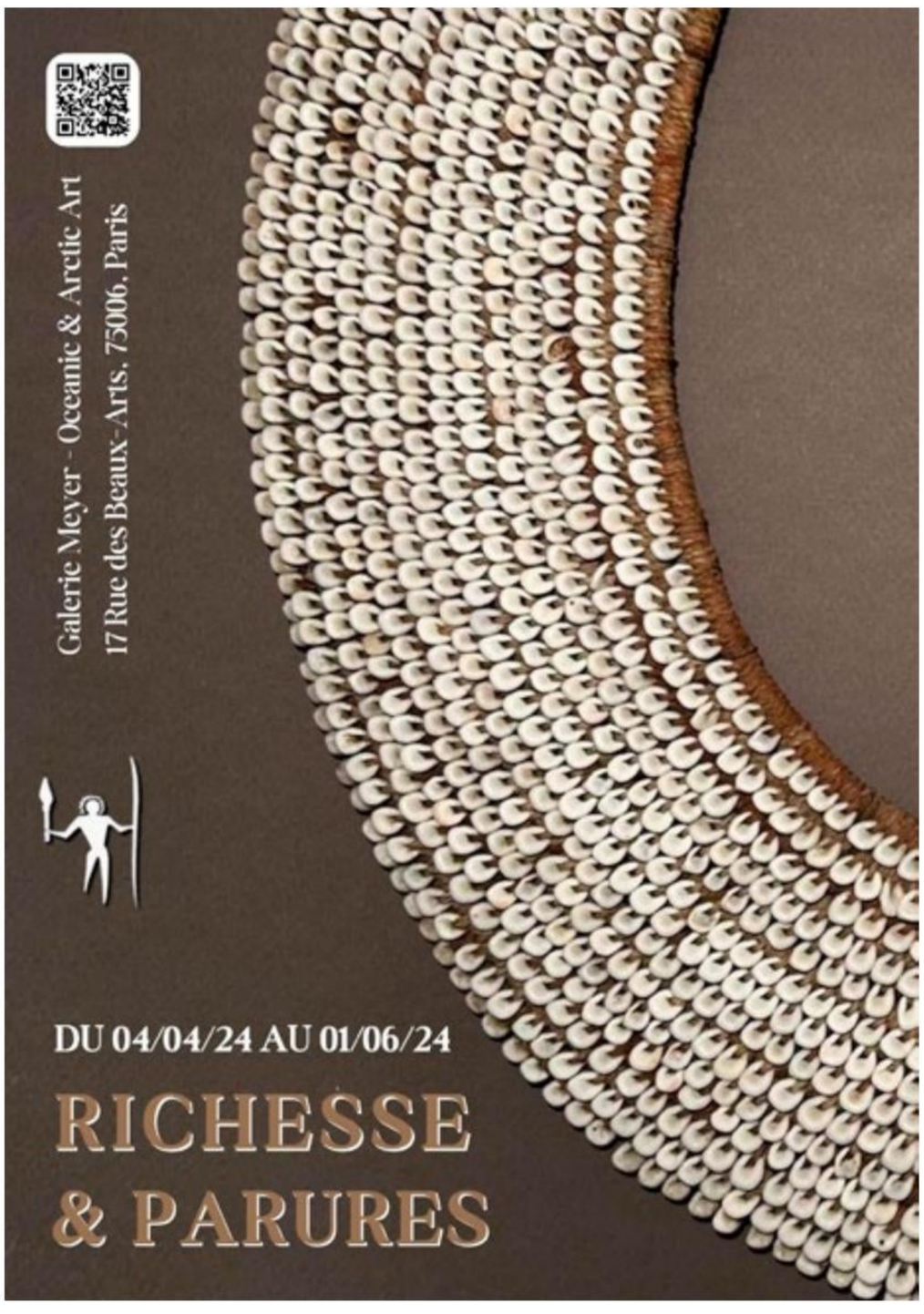
PARIS TRIBAL

Galerie Meyer is proud to present the exhibition ""Wealth & Adornment"", showcasing an exceptional collection of indigenous artworks from various islands of Oceania and ancient cultures of the Arctic. This captivating exhibition will take place from April 4th to June 1st, 2024, at Galerie Meyer, situated 17 Rue des Beaux-Arts, 75006 Paris.

The ""Wealth & Adornment"" exhibition offers visitors a unique opportunity to delve into the rich and fascinating world of religious and artistic artifacts, bearing witness to the ancestral traditions and creativity of the peoples of Oceania and the Arctic. Extraordinary pieces crafted from materials such as feathers, shells, bones, and teeth will be on display, each telling a unique story of wealth, purchasing power, and social status.



Visitors will have the opportunity to admire traditional masterpieces, some dating back several centuries, showcasing the skill of artists and the cultural significance of these objects. Each exhibited piece evokes the beliefs, rituals, and profound values of the societies that created them, offering a fascinating glimpse into their cultural heritage.

The ""Wealth & Adornment"" exhibition celebrates the diversity and beauty of artistic traditions of the peoples of Oceania and the Arctic, while inviting visitors to reflect on the meaning of wealth and status in different cultures throughout history.

We invite you to discover this exceptional exhibition, which promises to enchant art lovers, culture enthusiasts and « fashionista » from around the world.

12

FIGHTING DAGGER

Dagger
Sarakim Village, Wosera
Southern Abelam, PNG, Melanesia
19/20th century
Cassowary bone, fiber and feathers with a beautiful patina of age and use
38,5 cm x 5,5 cm x 7 cm
And feathers 51 cm x 4 cm (diam)
Provenance :
Ernst Heinrich, Bad Cannstatt, Stuttgart
Loed & Mia van Bussel, Amsterdam
Oscar van Weerdenburg, Pays Bas
Publication:
Conru, Kevin & Fogel, Jonathan (ed.) : SEPIK RAMU ART. Conru Editions, Brussels, 2019, pl. 60, p. 134/ 137.
Price on request

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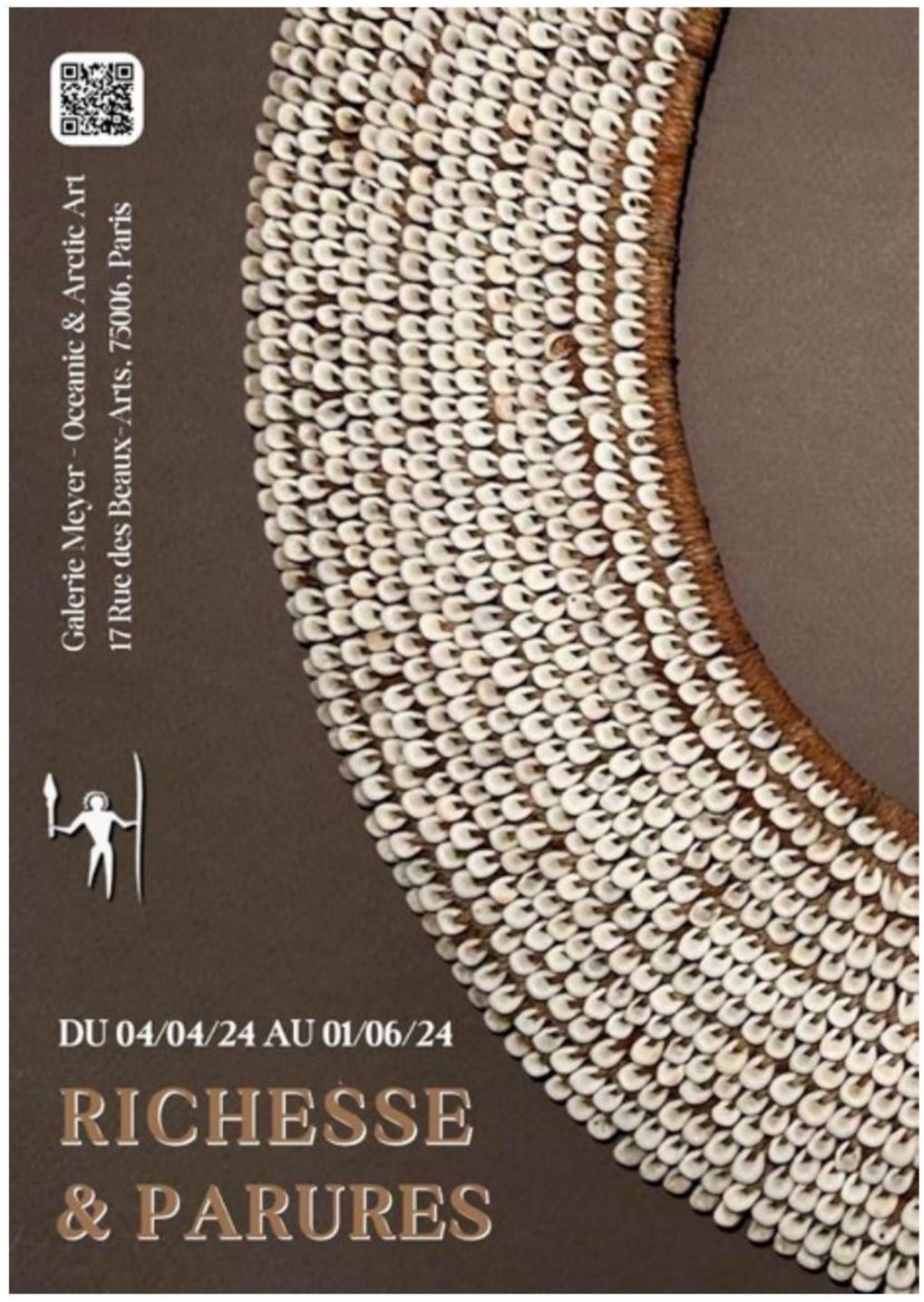
PARIS TRIBAL

Rare and exceptional fighting dagger adorned with a superb representation of an important ancestor wearing the initiates coiff or wagnen. The top of the dagger bears a feather tassel arranged in registers by color and ending with a feather cut out forming a herringbone pattern.

This dagger is also part of the exhibition ""Wealth & Adornment"", showcasing an exceptional collection of indigenous artworks from various islands of Oceania and ancient cultures of the Arctic. This captivating exhibition will take place from April 4th to June 1st, 2024, at Galerie Meyer, situated 17 Rue des Beaux-Arts, 75006 Paris



13

FIJIAN CULACULA

Club
Fiji
19th century
Length: 1 mt
Width: 20 cm
Provenance:
U.K. collection
Price: 3.600 euros

A possibly unique club dating to the mid or early 19th century with two rare cut out butterfly details and a double crossbar framing a central section. Excellent patina.

Some very old loss to the edges, almost certainly as it was collected.

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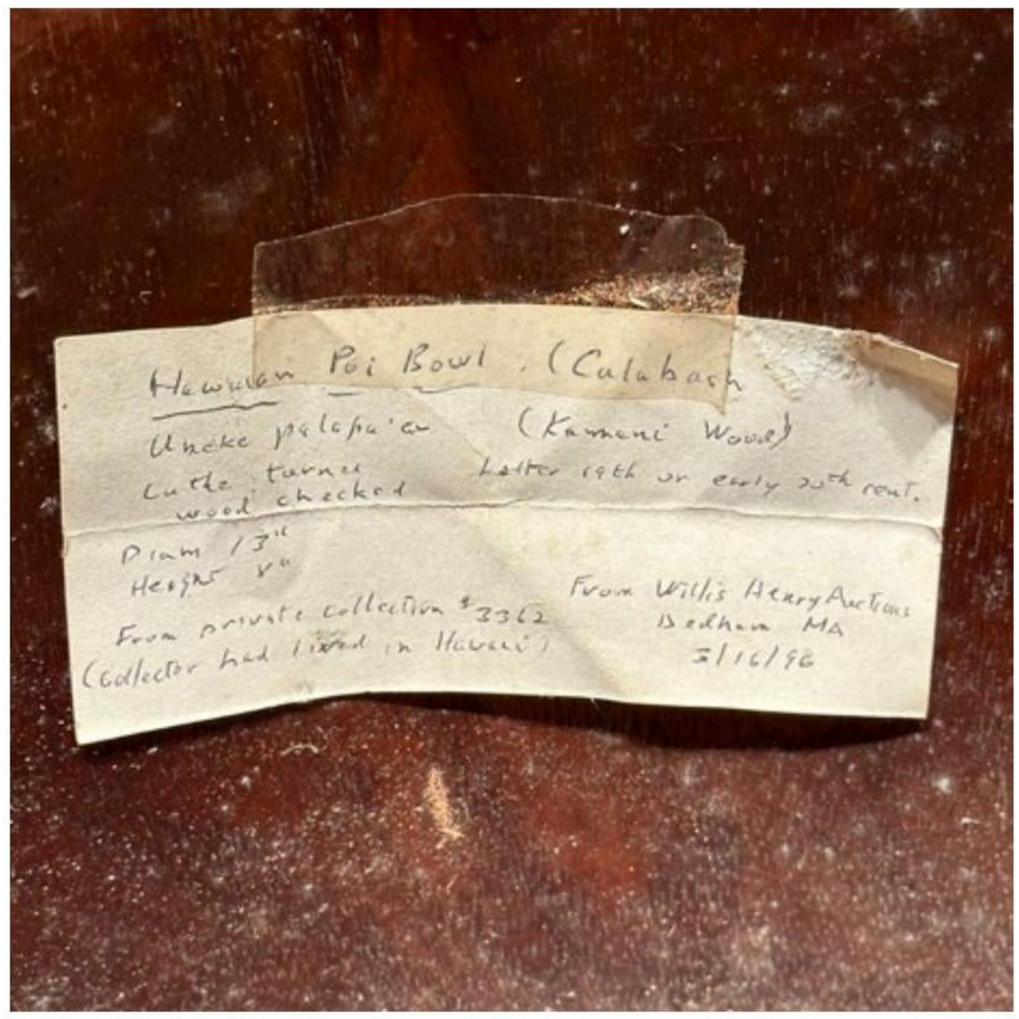
14

HAWAII BOWL

Bowl
Hawaii
19th/20th century
Lathe turned, Koa wood
21 cm (h) x 32,5 cm (d)
Provenance:
Private collection, New England
Willis Henry Auctions, MA (1996)
Price on request



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15

IGBO MIRROR

A fine hand mirror
Igbo
Nigeria
Circa 1900 or older
Length: 50 cm
Provenance:
U.K. collection
Price:

SOLD

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
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16

KACHINA DOLL

Sipikine Katsina – Warrior Kachina figure
Hopi
Arizona, USA
Circa 1920s
Carved wood (cottonwood), pigments
Height: 14,5 cm
Provenance:
Galerie Flak, Paris
Private collection, France, acquired above
Price on request

Kachina dolls (or katsinam) represent spirits or gods from the pantheon of the Pueblo peoples in the American Southwest. Given to children, kachina dolls constituted a pedagogical tool allowing them to familiarize themselves with the spiritual world and perpetuating knowledge of the founding myths on which their society was based.

This superb early doll depicts a warrior spirit called Sipikine Katsina. Originally appearing in Zuni ceremonies under the name Salimopia, Sipikine was subsequently integrated into the Hopi Katsina pantheon. Sipikine Kachina dancers performed barefoot; their ankles were adorned with tree leaves and their costume included raven feathers. They had to run very fast, which is why Sipikine dancers were always impersonated by young men, known for their agility and vigor. There are six variants of Sipikine; they are distinguished by their main colors, one for each cardinal point in Hopi symbolism (the katsina here is a black Sipikine).

This kachina doll will be part of our Native American art selection at Paris Tribal, April 23-28.

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PARIS TRIBAL

n° 3079

17

KOTIATE

Short striking weapon
Maori
Waikato area, New Zealand
Whale bone
Height: 33,5 cm
Provenance:
Morris Pinto galleries, New York, Geneva, Paris
Private collection, Canada 1950's
By decent 2022
Price on request

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18

LOBI BRACELET

Bracelet
Lobi
Burkina Faso
19th century
Copper alloy
Height: 11,5 cm
Provenance:
Private Collection, Italy
Price: 900 euros

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19

LOBI FIGURE

Standing figure
Lobi
Burkina Faso
Early 20th century
Carved wood
Height: 56 cm
Publication:
Magie Lobi, 2004, p. 59
TAS Exclusive price: 7.000 euros

The Lobi people of Burkina Faso used these figures to honor ancestors, please the spirits and protect the community. Carved figures were placed on family shrines and served various functions (protection against enemies, intercession with spirits and ancestors, prevention of sickness…).

Piet Meyer states that such carved figures were considered to be beings in their own rights. Their essence was answerable both to the spirits and to men.

This 56 cm (22 in.) tall sculpture is a superb example of ancient Lobi art of Burkina Faso art. It conveys an intense sense of hieratism. The dignified face features and haughty, upright posture of the figure are reminiscent of classical Egyptian art.

This Lobi figure will be part of our African art selection at Paris Tribal, April 23-28.

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PARIS
TRIBAL

20

LWENA STOOL

Prestige Stool - Mother and Child Caryatid
Lwena / Chokwe
Angola / Democratic Republic of the Congo
Carved wood
Height: 41 cm
Provenance:
Private collection, Belgium
TAS exclusive price:

As noted in the book *Chokwe! Art and Initiation among Chokwe and related peoples*. (Birmingham Museum of Art, 1999), the mother-and-child motif on this caryatid stool symbolically reinforces precepts regarding the matrilineal inheritance of royal titles. The female figure physically supports the chief seated on the stool, literally nurtures her child, and metaphorically sustains her community.

This Lwena stool will be part of our African art selection at Paris Tribal, April 23-28.

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21

MONTOL FIGURE

Figure
Montol
Nigeria
Wood
Height: 65cm, Length: 15cm
Price: 1.500 euros

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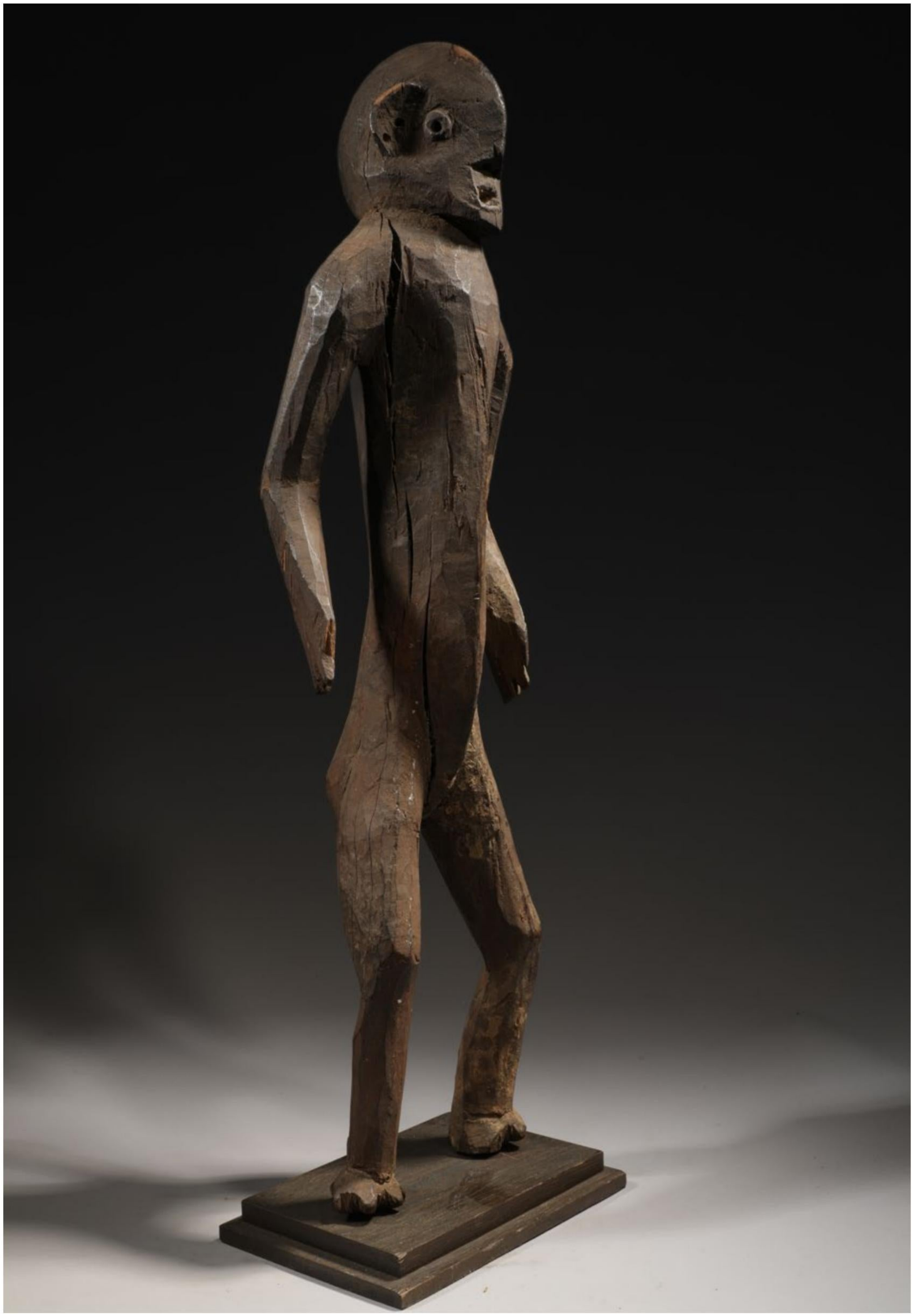

22

MOSSI FIGURE

Figure
Mossi
Burkina Faso
Early 20th century
Wood
Height: 40 cm
Provenance:
Private collection, USA
Price on request

Dolls with abstract features: stylized bodies, triangular breasts adorned with scarification marks, long necks placed under a flattened head covered with braces and eyes inlaid with nails, were given to Mossi girls to bring them fertility.

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23

RED FACED MAHAKALA WITH DEEP BLACK PATINA

Mask
Tibet, Bhutan or Nepal
19th century or earlier
Wood
38 cm x 30,5 cm x 20,5 cm
Provenance:
Mort Golub, CA
Felix Dennis, UK
Price on request

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Mahakala is the most powerful Dharmapala, 'Protector of the universal Buddhist Truth, the Dharma'. He is understood to be the wrathful manifestation of Avalokiteshvara and Cakrasa vara, and is also called Gonpo, “Lord”.

24

SHONA HEADREST

Headrest
Shona
Zimbabwe
19th century
Great patina, a really superb example
15 cm x 12 cm
Price: 2.000 euros

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
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A fine and old headrest, easily dating to the 19th century showing good evidence of years of indigenous use.

25

SOLOMON SKULL

Skull
Rubiana Island, Solomon Islands
Plant fiber, shell, skull
Height: 16cm, Length: 19cm
Price on request

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26

TAMPAN PASISIR, PAIRED ELEPHANTS

Paminggir
Paminggir people, South Coast of Lampung
17th century - Early 19th century
C14 Test ETH-71540
Cotton, supplementary weft weave
71 cm x 71 cm
Provenance
G.H.R von Koenigswald
Dr J.B. Lueth
Publication:
Woven Messages; Brigitte Kahn Majalis, 1991, plate 78, pg 100
Price on request

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
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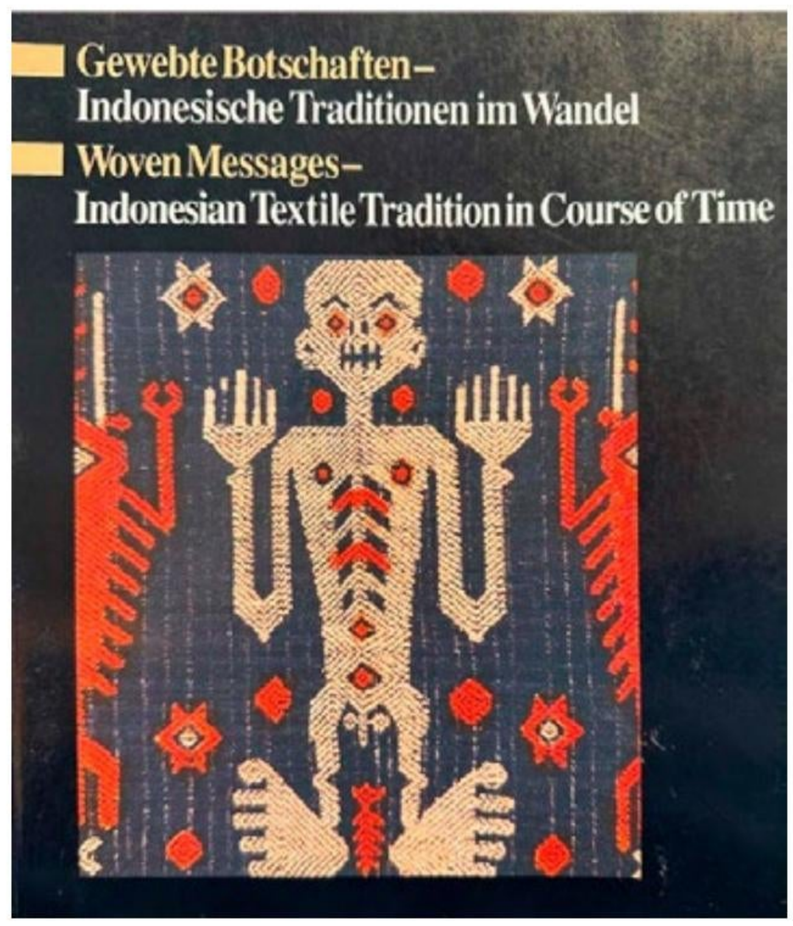
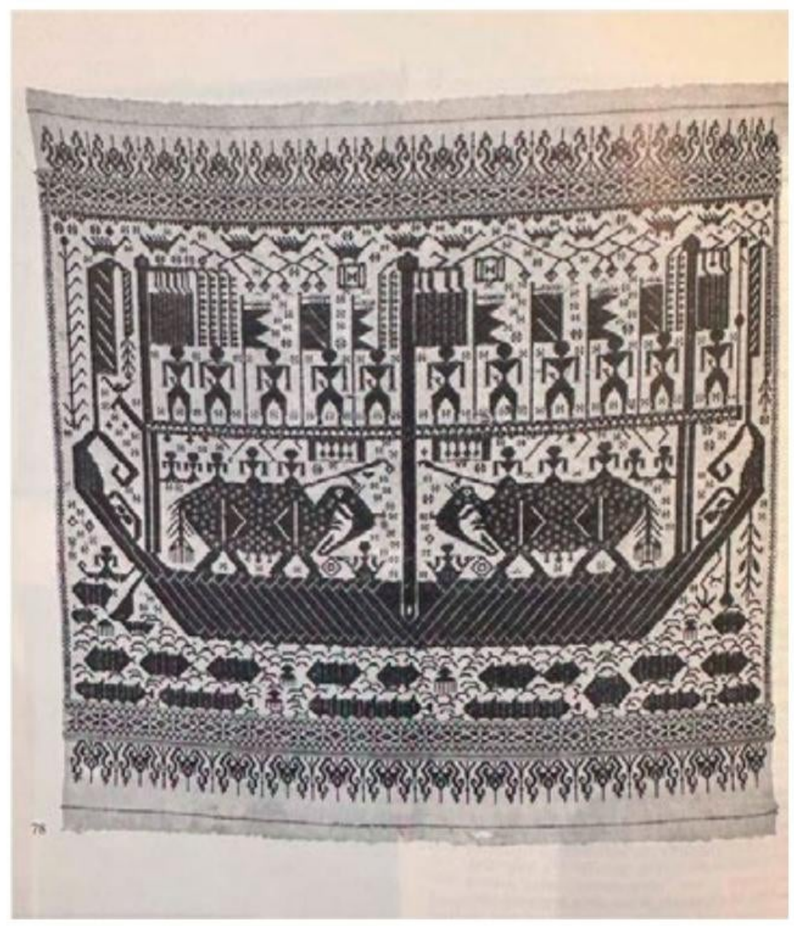
An exceptionally rare and beautiful Pasisir Tampan featuring paired Elephants and Ancestors; This ritual cloth has an important double provenance, was published and exhibited in multiple museums in Germany.

For more documentation please visit:
www.tmurrayarts.com/gallery/item-12886/





27

TIBETAN RUG

Collar
Tibet
cotton warp, wool weft, wool pile, leather
5 x 39 in
Price on request

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
Thomas Murray
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This collar is a fragment of an older tiger rug, reworked into its present form. Portions of a 'Greek key' border are visible at the ends of the rug.

Since it was once thought that tiger rugs were placed on the lead animal in a trade caravan traversing the dangerous highlands of the plateau region as talismanic protection, it is a mystery why more trappings of this design type are no longer extant. The leather ties on either end suggest the utilitarian function of this unusual weaving. The stylized 'shou' motif at the top end (symbolizing longevity) is an interesting and atypical feature.

This is one of 18 Tibetan rugs being offered only as a collection.Please see online digital catalog with introductory text by Thomas Cole, and structural note by Chris Buckley:

www.tmurrayarts.com/tibetan-rugs/

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TULUMA BOX

Fishing tackle box
Tokelau
Tokelau Islands
Wood
25 cm (h) x 35 cm (w) x 27 cm (d)
Provenance:
Private collection, New England
Price on request

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
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VILI FIGURE

Fetiche Nkisi
Vili
D.R. of Congo
Early 20th century
Wood with brown patina, trace of red earth, glass, shell rattan
Height: 26 cm
Provenance
Yann Ferrandin Gallery, Paris 2017
Price: 8.500 euros

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
Laurent Dodier
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Fetish represented standing, hands placed on hips, he wears a rattan loincloth. The power of this fetish is increased tenfold by the double charge emerging at the top of the head and on the abdomen. The magical load on the head containing various minerals and plants is flanked by pieces of shells, while the belly supports a load closed by a mirror.

These objects are ambivalent and multifunctional: they attack as well as they protect.

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URHOBO FIGURE

Figure
Urhobo
Nigeria
Wood
Height: 40cm, Length: 6cm
Price on request

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
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